



CONTACT: Gary Wynn, Greenfield Central High School

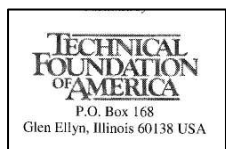
Telephone: 317-462-9211

Email: gwynn1@hotmail.com

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Best Practices in Technology Education: Teacher Chronicles ***Recognized by the Technical Foundation of America***

Description of Best Practice:



In 2000, the International Technology Education Association (ITEA) initiated an online series that it called the “Teacher Chronicles” (<http://www.iteaconnect.org/TeacherChronicles/teachchron.html>). In this series, technology teachers were invited to write a series of journals describing their day-to-day experiences in the classroom. In Volume I (2000-2001), Gary Wynn of Indiana wrote 10 installments, each approximately 10 pages long. Gary described his relationships with students, his facility and laboratory equipment, his professional activities, and much more. Each installment also featured some personal reflections on particular challenges he had faced in the classroom, as well as news about his home life and how his teaching job affected his personal life. Readers were treated to a very engaging, intimate, and true-to-life perspective on the life of a teacher.

In subsequent years, the ITEA featured journals by Steve Meyer, a high school technology teacher in Wisconsin, Andy Stephenson of Kentucky, and Gregg Mervich of Georgia. Each of these classroom teachers provided his own unique reflections on teaching, yet each managed to convey a very real sense of the challenges and successes that are inherent in every teaching situation.

When I started teaching a new one-hour class at my university called *Introduction to the Technology Teaching Profession*, I could think of no better “textbook” than these vignettes into the lives of teachers who so openly shared their feelings about the experience of teaching technology education. Each installment contains rich discussion points that can be used to highlight what these prospective teachers (my students) might face themselves. Many of the teachers highlighted also serve as electronic role models for these university students. Although I supplement my students’ required reading with many other resources, the Teacher Chronicles continues to be a featured part.



Unfortunately, the Teacher Chronicles was discontinued in 2004. Since that time, the ITEA has launched a new series called "Bright Ideas," available to members only. Bright Ideas features outstanding programs and information of interest, and is a helpful resource. I still continue to appreciate, however, having been invited into the minds of the teachers who wrote the Teacher Chronicles, and I know that my university students do, too.

Key contact person:

Katie de la Paz

International Technology Education Association

1914 Association Drive, Suite 201

Reston, VA 20191

Telephone 703.860.2100

Email: kdelapaz@iteaconnect.org

Best Practices in Technology Education:

A Collection of 21st Century Best Practices in Technology Education

is available for educational purposes at:

<http://teched.vt.edu/ctte/>